

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

For Release May 28, 1972

Carroll 343-5634

SECRETARY MORTON LAUDS OBSERVANCE OF HUNTING AND FISHING DAY

Secretary of the Interior Rogers C. B. Morton said today that President Nixon's proclamation designating September 23, 1972, as National Hunting and Fishing Day is "especially appropriate to recognize the important contributions that hunters and fishermen have made and continue to make to the conservation movement."

Governmental and private conservation organizations are planning special activities in observance of the first National Hunting and Fishing Day in honor of the Nation's sportsmen. Secretary Morton said that Interior's observance will be primarily by the Department's land-holding agencies, stressing wildlife habitat and environmental interpretation.

In a letter to Charles Dickey, secretary of the National Hunting and Fishing Day steering committee, Secretary Morton wrote:

"The American hunter and fisherman through his deep personal interest in our wildlife resources has paved the way for the growth of our modern wildlife management programs. His purchase of licenses and permits, his payment of excise taxes on hunting and fishing equipment, and his voluntary contributions to a great variety of conservation projects are multimillion dollar examples of his concern for wildlife populations and habitat preservation."

X X X